

**COGEMA, Inc.**

RECEIVED

553344

OCT 19 2001

October 19, 2001

Carol Hanlon  
S&ER Products Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 30307 M/S 025  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to offer the COGEMA, Inc.'s response to DOE's request for public comment in Federal Register notice 66 FR 43850.

The Yucca Mountain project continues to receive a great deal of attention internationally. COGEMA, Inc. has followed with interest the two decades of in-depth hydrologic, geologic, seismologic and other scientific studies at Yucca Mountain. We understand that scientists have found no evidence to date that would disqualify Yucca Mountain as a site for a permanent repository for high-level radioactive waste. The international nuclear community looks forward to the United States' leadership in the realm of spent nuclear fuel disposal.

We firmly support the view that storing high-level radioactive waste at one location is a better option than continuing to accumulate used fuel at more than 70 sites around the United States. By reprocessing its spent fuel, France has gained time to decide upon the placement of its own repository, but it is clear that a central repository is necessary in any country where nuclear power is generated. Reprocessing drastically reduces both the volume and the radiotoxicity of spent fuel, and offers improved energy security. Yucca Mountain could receive vitrified waste as well as spent fuel. One of the advantages of a repository with spent fuel retrievability is to maintain reprocessing as an option.

Having had decades of safe experience in cask fabrication and transportation of spent fuel assemblies, COGEMA, Inc. is convinced that transportation of spent fuel to the Yucca Mountain site is not a technical issue. International and U.S. transportation cask standards are rigorous, and an outstanding safety record has been compiled.

Moving forward with the Yucca Mountain repository is not only based on sound science, but it is an important part of the American nation's ability to rely on nuclear power as a clean, reliable source of electricity.

Sincerely,



Jacques Besnainou  
Executive Vice President, Spent Fuel Management